

Weekly Views

February 10, 2012

The deadline for applying for the CPAFI educational scholarships is just two weeks away. Seven scholarship awards are available, with amounts ranging from \$750 to \$4,000. For more information, contact your CPAFI Facility Representative or Superintendent's Office.

The Indiana State Prison's offender basketball team played Team Taylor, a local park league team. The game was close with a very enthused crowd. The half time score was ISP 59 and Team Taylor 54. The second half had several lead changes with no team leading by more than six points. With five minutes left in the game, ISP took control of the game and went on to a 105 to 99 victory. This was another great out-reach between the local community and the Indiana State Prison

The Wee Ones Nursery Program at the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) received a donation of 20 quilts made by the PLUS offenders at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF). The generous donation was delivered by Executive Director of Adult Facilities James Basinger and Tammy Ranard from WVCF. On behalf of IWP, Assistant Superintendent LaShelle Turner thanked the offenders of the Wabash PLUS Unit and ED Basinger for the blanket delivery.

Amy Rollings has been named Unit Team Manager at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility! The Indiana State University Criminology and Psychology graduate (zeroing in on a Masters Degree in Criminology) is a five year Re-Entry Professional at WVCF, most recently serving with distinction as Casework Manager. Amy, a valued member of the Southern Regional CISM team, also facilitates the Promoting Positive Correctional Culture Program. Congratulations Amy!

Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility's CLIFF Unit conducted a graduation ceremony for four participants. The graduates are part of an intensive drug recovery program that focuses on offenders with, or at risk of methamphetamine use or addiction. In addition to the group of four completing the CLIFF program, two students earned their GED while enrolled in the program. The CLIFF program began at the facility in December 2005 and is the only unit of its kind for male juvenile offenders. To date, the facility has graduated 44 groups with a total of 313 students from the program.

Camp Summit recognized five students for completing their GED with a graduation ceremony at the facility. Staff, students and family members celebrated their success with cake and punch after the awarding of certificates. Also present for the ceremony was Jim Fanswell, president of the LaPorte Lions Club. The Lions were recognized at the ceremony for their donation of \$300 for the purchase of caps and gowns for the students to wear during the event.

IDOC Central Office held a Soup and Salad Sale for staff to raise money for the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive, sponsored by First Lady Cheri Daniels. This is the second successful food sale staff have conducted to collect money for this worthy cause. So far, Central Office has raised \$424 and collected 135 cans, putting them half way toward their goal of 1,000 cans. This year Commissioner Lemmon challenged staff to double their contribution from last year. Throughout the month of February, state employees will be collecting canned food and raising money for Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers. At the end of the month, IDOC will go up against other state agencies in IndiCANa, a canned food sculpture building competition. Go TEAM DOC! Yes we CAN!

The PLUS program at the Westville Correctional Facility sponsored another successful food sale, this time partnering up with a local KFC restaurant. KFC developed a special menu with chicken dinners and favorites for purchase by offenders of the PLUS program and Level One offenders. The total KFC sales amounted to \$5931. The PLUS unit profited \$847.38, which will go toward programming material and books for the PLUS participants. The facility food sales create a win-win situation, and local restaurants are always appreciative of our extraordinary business.

Fourteen Ivy Tech students accompanied by their instructor and former DOC employee, James Houston, toured the Rockville Correctional Facility. They visited the Offender Services Building, the CLIFF and Intake Units as well as an open population dormitory, offender dining room and recreation building. Following the tour several students indicated that they would be interested in being future employees of the Department of Correction.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held its 8th PLUS Graduation Ceremony. Attending and speaking at the ceremony were IDOC Director of Religious Services Dr. Stephen Hall, Deputy Director of Religious Services Dave Liebel, CIF Superintendent Wendy Knight, and CIF Chaplain Alan McCraine. 33 offenders graduated after successfully completing the program, having finished extensive classroom work and demonstrating knowledge and application of the core values of the program. Following the ceremony the graduates visited and celebrated with their families and IDOC Central Office visitors.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a Black History Program that was attended by approximately 100 offenders. Clete Hassan Ladd, Principal of the Excel Center at Decatur High School in Indianapolis served as the special guest speaker for the event.

Lemuel Vega and the Christmas Behind Bars program visited New Castle Correctional Facility (NCCF). NCCF offenders received gift bags from the prison ministry volunteers and were entertained by a church choir.